

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 /055 W

-----052315 044328 /73

R 051848Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0324

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS PARIS 06590

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, FR, UK, US

SUBJ: CIVAIR: GEN. BILLOTTE LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER  
ON CONCORDE

1. WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM GEN. BILLOTTE, RPR MEMBER OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, LETTER DATED MARCH 4 ADDRESSED TO PRESIDENT CARTER ON SUBJECT OF CONCORDE. PERSONAL FOLLOW-UP ON BEHALF OF GEN. BILLOTTE WAS MADE TO AMBASSADOR TO ASK THAT MESSAGE BE CONVEYED PROMPTLY TO THE PRESIDENT.

2. IN HIS LETTER GEN. BILLOTTE STATES THAT HE IS TAKING THE LIBERTY OF WRITING BY VIRTUE OF HIS OWN ROLE DURING THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS AS PRESIDENT OF THE FRANCE-UNITED STATES FRIENDSHIP GROUP IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND RECALLING PRESIDENT CARTER'S KINDNESS IN RECEIVING HIM ON HIS LAST VISIT TO ATLANTA. GEN. BILLOTTE WRITES THAT CONCORDE DECISION COMES AT AN ESPECIALLY CRITICAL JUNCTURE FOR WESTERN EUROPE, WHEN IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THERE NOT BE THE SLIGHTEST DISRUPTION OF THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND FRANCE AND THE UK. FRENCH CONFIDENCE IN US DEDICATION TO LOYAL COMPETITION IN BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY WOULD BE VERY SERIOUSLY SHAKEN IF "ENEMIES OF PROGRESS WERE TO PREVAIL IN THE US AT A TIME WHEN

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EUROPE REMAINS OPEN TO NEW TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES FROM THE US. FOR ALL THE FRENCH AND ALL THE BRITISH CONCORDE HAS BECOME A "PSYCHOLOGICAL, SENTIMENTAL, POLITICAL" ISSUE. HE FURTHER COMMENTS THAT BANNING CONCORDE FROM NEW YORK WOULD WIPE OUT CONCORDE'S COMMERCIAL ADVANTAGE OVER THE SOVIET SST. GEN. BILLOTTE CONCLUDES BY STATING THAT HE AWAITS WITH CONFIDENCE PRESIDENT CARTER'S DECISION.

3. ORIGINAL OF GEN. BILLOTTE'S LETTER AND INFORMAL  
TRANSLATION ARE BEING POUCHED FOR FORWARDING TO WHITE  
HOUSE.  
RUSH

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICIES, LANDING RIGHTS, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, NEGOTIATIONS, CONCORDE  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**Subject:** CIVAIR: GEN. BILLOTTE LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER ON CONCORDE  
**TAGS:** EAIR, FR, UK, US, (CARTER, JIMMY), (BILLOTTE)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
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**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009